

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Birefringence of a protective film and leakage of light in a cross-Nicole arrangement of polarizing plates may be canceled, when, as a polarizing plate protective film, using an optical film

5 **having an optical compensation layer (2) showing refractive index anisotropy satisfying a relationship of $n_{x2} \div n_{y2} > n_{z2}$, when a direction where an in-plane refractive index gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction as Z-axis, and when refractive indexes in each**

10 **axial direction are defined as n_{x2} , n_{y2} , and n_{z2} , respectively, on one side of a base material film (1) in which each of refractive index differences represented with $|n_{x1} - n_{y1}|$, $|n_{x1} - n_{z1}|$ and $|n_{z1} - n_{y1}|$ has values of not more than 0.0006, respectively, when a**

15 **direction where a refractive index in a film plane gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film as Z-axis, and when refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as n_{x1} , n_{y1} and n_{z1} , respectively.**